



Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

Our Mission: To secure federal funding which reimburses eligible districts for tax revenue lost (for student programs) due to the federal government's removal of land from the local tax rolls; such revenue to be used for the public education of students.

AGENDA

NAFIS Fall CONFERENCE 2021

Sunday, September 19, 2021—10:45-11:45AM—Capitol Room A/Zoom Invite Below

Monday, September 20, 2021—8:45AM-10AM—Concord/Lexington/Zoom Invite Below

- I. Welcome Comments and Review of the Mission/Vision of FLISA – Mark Naugle
 - A. *No district financially destroyed,*
 - B. *Increase participation of 7002 districts,*
 - C. *Fair distribution of 7002 funds.*
- II. Introduction of FLISA Board and Past-Presidents
- III. Introduction by Those in Attendance – Recorded by: Becky Allan
 - A. *Name, Title, Location and Impacted Land,*
 - B. *Recognition of New Attendees—Cathie Peznowski*
- IV. Update on Current Political Climate and FLISA—Tom Schneider
- V. Update on Current Political Climate and NAFIS—Hilary Goldmann, NAFIS
- VI. Review of FLISA Hill Visit Messaging – Tom Schneider
 - A. Replay of the FLISA Elevator Speech/Pitch Video—Terry Tamblyn
 - B. What makes a good Elevator Pitch Worksheet (attached)
 - C. 1-Pager Leave Behind Your Local 1-Pager (Leland) FLISA Talking Point
- VII. Executive Director's Report – Tom Schneider
 - A. Advocacy Action Plan at January Meeting
 - B. Possible By-Law Changes
 - C. FLISA Leadership Development
 - D. The success of this meeting is what you do between meetings to advocate for the goals of Impact Aid and FLISA.
- VIII. Next Meeting Information
 - a. Winter 2022 FLISA Meeting, Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach, FL, January 7-9 2022 (Friday Meeting Day)
 1. Call for Presentations*
 - b. Spring NAFIS Conference, Washington DC, March 13-15, 2022
 - c. Summer 2022 FLISA Meeting, Hotel Lucia, Portland, OR—June 23-25, 2022 (Friday Meeting Day)
 - d. Fall NAFIS Conference, Washington DC, September 18-20, 2022
 - e. Winter 2023 FLISA Meeting, TBD, January 5-7 (Friday Meeting Day)

- IX. NAFIS Board Update –Craig Hutcheson
- X. Approval of minutes from the NAFIS Spring Meeting—Terry Tamblyn
 - A. Document has been posted on the FLISA website
- XI. Treasurer’s Report—Becky Allan
 - A. Document has been posted on the FLISA website
- XII. Elevator Speech Olympics (with fabulous prizes)
- XII. Look Ahead: What Do We Need for A Successful:
 - Completion of Action Plan for January, 2022
 - Interim communications
 - What info do you need?...How often?
 - March, 2022 NAFIS Conference Information

Advocacy Action Plan Work

- NAFIS is also engaging in a Strategic Planning process. At the NAFIS Conference the consultant leading the NAFIS effort will speak and provide additional assistance.
- Set a final plan until our January, 2022 meeting.
- Thoughts from Deadwood on Current Plan (see attached)

Our Mission: To secure federal funding which reimburses eligible districts for tax revenue lost (for student programs) due to the federal government’s removal of land from the local tax rolls; such revenue to be used for the public education of students.

Vision: Secure **100%** funding for the 7002 program

Guiding Principles:

- 7002 Impact Aid Funds will be distributed in a fair and equitable manner
- Membership in 7002 will be expanded
- No decision will financially destroy or severely harm any district

Goal: Secure funding to increase the 2009 appropriations for Section 7002 to **\$104,208,335***, which would bring it to a funding level of one-third of our entitlement over the next ten years.

**Current funding (\$76M) + Ask in Biden Transition Memo (\$54M) = \$130M*

XIII. Review of Objective Statements—What is the goal of our organization and how can we best organize this work so stuff gets done.

Objectives:

1. Develop the strategy that will cause the achievement of (the above stated) organization Goal
2. Enhance communications among 7002 districts
3. Enhance communication with members of Congress
4. Work with the leadership of other NAFIS groups to form a unified front to speak with one voice
5. Cultivate leadership from within the 7002 group
6. Assure continued reauthorization of the 7002 Impact Aid Program
7. Broaden participation by increasing membership and encouraging active participation by current members



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XIV. Planning Thought (Think, Pair, Share)

If resources were not a factor (time, money, bandwidth) what is one or two things you would add to this association that you feel would make the greatest impact

- XV. Review of Targeted Lobbying Message for this Congress to be used on Hill Visits
- A. Review NAFIS Advocacy Messaging (See: NAFIS FALL Talking Points)
 - B. Review of One-Pager and Talking Points
 - C. Review of Website Information

XV. New Business

XVI. Items from Membership

XVII. Next Meeting Information

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XVIII. Adjournment

***Call for Presentations—Winter FLISA Meeting**

Do you have important best practices to share with the educator community? Are you an expert on a cutting-edge issue in youth development or education? Can you captivate a crowd? Well, it's time to bring your ideas to a national audience – become a presenter at the FLISA Winter Conference.

This year we'll see you and your team in Clearwater Beach, Florida, on January 7-9, 2022.

Our 2022 conference comes as educators are working to help students recover from pandemic-interrupted schooling and we would love to learn more about what you are doing to address this issue or any other issue you'd like to share.

Contact Tom Schneider, Executive Director to reserve your spot
(schneiderthomasw@hotmail.com)

	School District	Contact	Title	Address	City	State
21-22						
x	Academy School District #20	Ms. Becky Allan	CFO	1110 Chapel Hills Drive	Colorado Springs	CO
x	Alma School Dist. #2	Mr. Jon S. Davis	Superintendent	P.O. Box 170	Alma	NE
x	Andes Central School District 11-1	Dr. Cheryl Thaler	Superintendent	1001 High St.	Lake Andes	SD
x	Bartholomew Cons. School Corp.	Ms. Paula Belton	Director of Accounting	1200 Central Avenue	Columbus	IN
x	Big Bay De Noc School Dist.	Ms. Diana D. Thill	Principal	8928 00.25 Road	Cooks	MI
x	Bryan Co. Board of Education	Mr. Paul T. Brooksher	Superintendent	8810 Highway 280 East	Black Creek	GA
x	Burt Township Schools	Mr. Tony Bames	Superintendent of Schools	27 Colwell St./ P.O. Box 338	Grand Marais	MI
x	Chamberlain Independent School District	Ms. Michelle Willrodt	Business Manager	P.O. Box 119	Chamberlain	SD
x	Community Consol. School Dist. #180	Dr. Thomas Schneider	Superintendent	15 W. 451, 91st St.	Burr Ridge	IL
x	Grandon School District	Mr. Larry Palubicki	District Admin	9750 U.S. Highway 8W	Grandon	WI
x	Custer School Dist. #16-1	Mr. Mark Naugle	Superintendent of Schools	527 Montgomery Street	Custer	SD
x	Elwood CSD #203	Mr. Timothy Page	Superintendent	409 N. Chicago Avenue	Elwood	IL
x	Fallbrook Union Elementary School District	Mr. Ernesto Garcia Hernandez	Director of Accounting	321 North Iowa Street	Fallbrook	CA
x	French Gulch-Whiskeytown Elem. School Dist.		Teacher	P.O. Box 368	French Gulch	CA
x	Glen Lake Community School	Ms. LeAnn Eustice	Business Manager	3375 W. Burdickville Road	Maple City	MI
x	Hatboro Horsham School Dist.	Mr. Bill Stone	Director of Business Affairs	229 Meetinghouse Rd.	Horsham	PA
x	Hermitage R-IV School Dist. 043-004	Dr. Justin Yates	Superintendent	P.O. Box 327	Hermitage	MO
x	Highland Falls-Ft. Montgomery Central School District	Mr. Joseph Lenz	Assistant Superintendent	P.O. Box 287	Highland Falls	NY
x	Hill City School District	Blake Gardner	Superintendent	PO Box 659	Hill City	SD
x	Hot Springs School District #23-2	Mr. Dennis Fischer	Superintendent	1747 Lincoln Ave.	Hot Springs	SD
x	Hueneme Elementary School District	Dr. Christine Walker	Superintendent	205 North Ventura Road	Port Hueneme	CA
x	Hyde Park Central School District	Ms. Linda Steinberg	Asst. Super for Finance/Op	P.O. Box 2033	Hyde Park	NY
x	Kadoka Area School District 35-2	Jamie Herman	Superintendent	P.O. Box 99	Kadoka	SD
x	Keys Public Schools	Vol Woods	Superintendent	26062 Hwy 82	Park Hill	OK
x	Kingston 45-1003-000	Ms. Kathy Burnett	Business Manager	P.O. Box 370	Kingston	OK
x	Leland Public Schools	Ms. Sandra Thomas	Business Manager	P.O. Box 498 (200 N. Grand Ave.)	Leland	MI
x	Lemont Twp. High School Dist. #210	Mr. Ken Parchem	School Business Official	800 Porter St.	Lemont	IL
x	Lewisville Ind. School Dist.	Mr. R. Mark Youngs	CFO	P.O. Box 217	Lewisville	TX
x	Liberty Co. Board of Education	Mrs. Stephanie Clark	Executive Director of Finance	200 Bradwell Street	Hinesville	GA
x	Loleta Union School District	Autumn Chapman	Superintendent	700 Loleta Dr.	Loleta	CA
x	Long Co. Board of Education	Amy Rogers	Impact Aid Coordinator	P.O. Box 428	Ludowici	GA
x	Los Alamitos Unif. School Dist.	Elvira Galicia	Asst. Supt. of Business Services	10293 Bloomfield St.	Los Alamitos	CA
x	Mad River Local School District	Jerry Ellender	CFO	801 Old Harshman Road	Riverside	OH
x	Niobrara School District #1-R	Mr. George Minch	Superintendent	PO Box 629	Lusk	WY
x	Oceanside Unified School District	Mr. Timothy Golden	Director of Fiscal Services	2111 Mission Avenue	Oceanside	CA
x	Onslow County Board of Education	Mr. Jeff Hollamon	CFO	P.O. Box 99	Jacksonville	NC
x	Platte-Geddes School Dist. #11-5	Mr. Joel Bailey	Superintendent	400 Illinois Avenue	Platte	SD
x	Sandyston-Walpack Consolidated School District	Dr. William Kochis	Superintendent	100 Route 560, P.O. Box 128	Layton	NJ
x	Shoreline Unified School District	Mr. Logan Martin	Director of Fiscal Services	P.O. Box 198	Tombles	CA
x	Sierra Sands Unified School District	Ms. Pamela Smith	Asst. Supt. of Business & Services	113 Felspar Avenue	Ridgecrest	CA
x	Smithville R-II School Dist. 024-087	Dr. Todd Schuetz	Superintendent	655 S. Commercial	Smithville	MO
x	South Central School District #26-5	Mr. Jeremy Wolman	Superintendent	401 Birdsell Street	Bonesteel	SD
x	Southeast Local School Dist.	Ms. Cassie J. Bergman	Treasurer	8245 Tallmadge Rd.	Ravenna	OH
x	Stanley Co. School Dist. #57-1	Mr. Dan Baldwin	Superintendent	3 E. Second Ave., P.O. Box 370	Fort Pierre	SD
x	Watersmeet Township School District	Mr. George Peterson III	Superintendent	North 4720 Highway 45, P.O. Box 2	Watersmeet	MI
x	Wilmington Comm. Unit School Dist. #209	Dr. Matt Swick	Superintendent of Schools	209J Wildcat Court	Wilmington	IL
x	Windham Exempted Village School	Ms. Aireane Curtis	Superintendent	9530 Bauer Avenue	Windham	OH
x	Winona R-III School Dist. 101-105	Jennifer Mahan-Asplin	Superintendent	Box 248	Winona	MO
x	Yankton School Dist. #63-3	Mr. Jason L. Bletz	Business Manager	2410 West City Limits Road, PO Box Yankton	Yankton	SD

State	District/Agency Name	7002	Email Address	Title
California	Hueneme Elementary School District	Y	cwalker@hueneme.org	Superintendent
California	Hueneme Elementary School District	Y	dbruno@hueneme.org	Board Member
California	Oceanside Unified School District	Y	rhonda.heffernan@oside.us	Principal, Stuart Mesa School
Georgia	Bryan County Schools	Y	mjames@bryan.k12.ga.us	Assistant Superintendent of Finance
South Dakota	Oelrichs School District	Y	ldtlustos@gmail.com	School Board Member
California	Oceanside Unified School District	Y	andrea.norman@oside.us	Associate Superintendent of Business Services
California	Sierra Sands Unified School District	Y	dostash@ssusd.org	Superintendent
California	Sierra Sands Unified School District	Y	msscott@ssusd.org	Board Member
Illinois	Elwood CCSD 203	Y	t.page@elwoodschool.com	Superintendent
Illinois	Lemont High School District 210	Y	mticknor@lhs210.net	Superintendent
Illinois	Wilmington CUSD 209U	Y	mswick@209u.net	Superintendent
Michigan	Glen Lake	Y	mattsonm@mylakers.org	Interim Superintendent
Michigan	Glen Lake Community Schools	Y	eusticel@mylakers.org	Chief Financial Officer
Michigan	Glen Lake Community Schools	Y	hazawl.massieux@mylakers.org	School Board Member
Michigan	Leland Public School	Y	slong@lelandschool.com	Superintendent
New York	Highland Falls Fort Montgomery CSD	Y	joseph.lenz@hffmcsd.org	Assistant Superintendent for Business
New York	Highland Falls-Fort Montgomery CSD	Y	frank.sheboy@hffmcsd.org	Superintendent
Ohio	Mad River Local School District	Y	Jerry.ellender@madriverschools.org	Treasurer/CFO
Pennsylvania	Hatboro-Horsham School District	Y	reichert63@gmail.com	Impact Aid Program Coordinator
South Dakota	Bon Homme School District	Y	brad.peters@k12.sd.us	Superintendent
South Dakota	Pierre School District 32-2	Y	kelly.glodt@k12.sd.us	Superintendent
South Dakota	Wail School District	Y	pandi.pittman@k12.sd.us	Superintendent
Illinois	Cass School District 63	Y	mcross@cassd63.org	Superintendent
Illinois	Elwood CCSD#203	Y	cpezanoski@gmail.com	Consultant
New Jersey	Kittatinny	Y	chutches@krhs.net	Dr.
New Jersey	Sandyston-Walpack Consolidated School District	Y	wkochis@sandystonwalpack.org	Superintendent
Ohio	Mad River Local Schools	Y	chad.wyen@madriverschools.org	Superintendent
South Dakota	Custer School District 16-1	Y	mark.naugle@k12.sd.us	Superintendent
South Dakota	South Central School District	Y	jeremy.wollman@k12.sd.us	Superintendent
Illinois	Cass SD 63	Y	tkc_consulting@ameritech.net	Federal Grants Facilitator

★ Punchbowl News AM: The Endgame: Biden's agenda

Punchbowl News <team@punchbowl.news>

Tue 9/14/2021 5:09 AM

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**PUNCHBOWL
NEWS AM.**

PRESENTED BY

FACEBOOK

BY JOHN BRESNAHAN, ANNA PALMER AND
JAKE SHERMAN

WITH MAX COHEN AND CHRISTIAN HALL



LISTEN TO THE DAILY PUNCH



THE TOP

Happy Tuesday. Sixteen days until the federal government shuts down. Thirteen days until the House's deadline to pass the infrastructure bill. Six days until the House comes back into session.

California's gubernatorial recall election is tonight. There are plenty of great reporters on the ground in the Golden State. We suggest a subscription to the [Los Angeles Times](#).

a follow of Politico's [Carla Marinucci](#) and [Jeremy White](#), and WaPo's [Dave Weigel](#). The LAT's [Mark Z. Barabak](#) has you covered, as well.

Back to Washington.

There are so many tripwires between now and the potential passage of President Joe Biden's agenda, but here's something interesting we noticed last night: The gulf between moderate and progressive Democrats seems to be widening by the minute.

Check this out: Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.) told reporters that he wants "100%" of the reconciliation bill paid for by budgetary offsets. If you were wondering, that's not in the cards at the moment. Tester wasn't asked whether he would accept "dynamic scoring" to account for some of these offsets. The Montana Democrat certainly agrees there's plenty of worthwhile issues to spend money on. He just doesn't want to blow up the deficit even more.

And on the day after Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) took to the Sunday shows to say \$3.5 trillion is unacceptable, Sen. [Bernie Sanders](#) (I-Vt.) made it extraordinarily clear he won't stand for lowering the price tag.

Take it away, Bernie:

Sanders was also asked whether immigration reform would be included in the reconciliation package. The Senate parliamentarian is considering this issue now, but reform advocates are pressing Senate Democrats hard as well. The House Judiciary Committee included a pathway to citizenship in their reconciliation markup late Monday night.

"We're working on it!" Sanders said.

The endgame: Reconciliation



OK, we're going to project a bit about the endgame for the Democrats' \$3.5 trillion reconciliation package. Speaker **Nancy Pelosi** and Senate Majority Leader **Chuck Schumer** may not enjoy this. But everyone in town is

asking how, when and whether the Biden agenda will get passed into law. It's the subject of countless consultant calls with big companies, conversations in rank-and-file and leadership offices on Capitol Hill and in the leg and policy shops at the White House.

A couple thoughts up front:

→ **Reconciliation could take a while to finish.** We've heard some speculation suggesting Democrats may not be able to wrap this up until November or December. We're not going there yet, but it's hard to see how this could possibly happen in early October.

"Pelosi, in a 'Dear Colleague' released Monday night, praised her committees for finishing their work by the Sept. 15 deadline, but then she counseled patience and unity:

"We are now prepared to continue negotiations with the White House and Senate to reach reconciliation on legislation that meets the everyday needs of the American people and that addresses the climate crisis. As you are aware, we have certain limitations in terms of Senate rules. But we have no limit to our vision to pass transformative legislation For The People."

→ **The House is still slated** to take up the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure bill by Sept. 27. This was part of a deal Pelosi reached with Rep. **Josh Gottheimer** (D-N.J.) and the moderates. That's a Monday, so voting may slide until the next day, Sept. 28.

The very strong likelihood is that reconciliation won't be done by then. So will progressives vote for an infrastructure bill they don't love when the reconciliation package isn't complete yet? Does Pelosi delay the infrastructure vote, which she can do unilaterally despite her agreement with moderates? Or does the House leadership let the infrastructure bill fail, and then bring it up again later on? Democrats are assuming they'll get few, if any, House GOP votes here. Thus all this speculation is based on a package that only Democrats vote for. It's a difficult scenario to game out right now. But the important thing to remember is reconciliation isn't likely to be done by Sept. 27.

Let's get back to the reconciliation endgame.

Based on current spending so far approved by the House committees, the Democratic package totals roughly \$3 trillion in spending. This is going to continue to balloon, especially if the

committee includes a fix to the state and local tax deduction limits in the Ways and Means Committee this week. The final package will be somewhere near the \$3.5 trillion target. Maybe a little over. Or maybe a lot over if you ask some Senate Democrats, who privately say House Democrats are being reckless with the price tag.

The House Budget Committee is going to assemble the various pieces from the committees into one package. That's set to happen next week. Budget can't alter the committee provisions, although it can make recommendations on amendments. The panel will hold an up-or-down vote. Then it's onto the Rules Committee.

Now this is where things get dicey on timing. We already know there's going to be a manager's amendment to the reconciliation package to fix or tweak various proposals in the package.

The bigger question is whether Pelosi holds onto the reconciliation legislation until a deal can be worked out with the Senate. When we say "Senate" here, we mean Sens. **Joe Manchin** (D-W.Va.), **Kyrsten Sinema** (D-Ariz.) and the other Senate Democratic moderates who want a

much smaller reconciliation package overall.

House Democratic leadership aides say their hope is whatever passes the House will also pass the Senate. But a negotiated agreement seems more likely. How long will those talks take? Weeks? Months? Or will the House vote on the package as is, wait to see if it's altered by the Senate, and then take up whatever the Senate approves? That would be an uglier process, but doable. And that would mean two separate House floor votes: the House package and the altered Senate package.

What about this scenario floated to us: House and Senate Democrats reach a "deal" on reconciliation. The House passes it with just enough yes votes to get it over the finish line. Then it goes over to the Senate. Manchinema (or Sinemanchin, you choose) and the moderates demand more changes following another round of negotiations. The Senate passes the bill (50 "yes" votes on the nose, of course) and sends it back to the House. Do House Democrats just eat it after two rounds of negotiations dominated by Senate moderates? Again, this will be ugly with progressives. But something is always better than nothing. And the clock is

ticking toward 2022.

Remember, Pelosi only has a three-vote margin to play with here, and two of those may be already taken up by Reps. **Kurt Schrader** (D-Ore.) and **Jared Golden** (D-Maine), according to Democratic insiders.

If we had to make a guess, we'd say Pelosi holds onto the House package until there's a deal with the Senate, offers that agreement as a manager's amendment in Rules and then takes it to the House floor. Tough, but she can make it work.

Again, no one in the House Democratic leadership is talking about this at all, they say it's too early. Yet we get paid to think ahead based on our reporting, so we are.

Also: The House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means panels hold critical reconciliation markups today. Ways and Means begins the first of two days of markups on its portion of reconciliation, which will include tax increases.

Energy and Commerce -- after a marathon session yesterday that went past 2 a.m. -- is back at 10 a.m. to finish its work. The panel didn't get to its health title yesterday, meaning

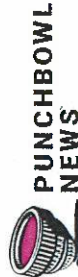
prescription drug pricing under Medicare is still unfinished. This is a huge issue, and Rep. **Frank Pallone** (D-N.J.) and Democratic leaders were scrambling for votes, as we told Premium subscribers in the PM edition. The leadership believes they've fixed this issue, but we'll keep an eye on this.

<Punchbowl News Special Edition: Introducing The Legislative Outlook

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Wed 9/15/2021 11:02 AM

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PRESENTED BY

CLIMATE POWER

BY JOHN BRESNAHAN, ANNA PALMER
AND JAKE SHERMAN

WITH MAX COHEN AND CHRISTIAN HALL

Happy Wednesday from your friends at Punchbowl News -- Bres, Jake, Anna, Christian and Max. Welcome to our first **Legislative Outlook**, a periodical special edition that will dig a bit deeper on what to expect from Washington, both in the short and long term. This is essentially us emptying our notebooks, compiling much of what we hear in the Capitol into one place at one time. It's our stepback and your cheat sheet.

As always, please email us, DM us, call us or get in touch some way to tell us what you think, what you want, what you like and what you don't. We look forward to bringing you more of

this content in the future.

THE LANDSCAPE

As we've been writing for you in Punchbowl News AM, we're in the middle of the busiest legislative period in years. September has a stunning number of fiscal and legislative deadlines. The biggest of these, of course, is the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30. This issue has become caught up in the debt-limit debate as Democrats plan to attach a debt-limit increase to a short-term funding bill. Republicans have vowed to oppose this move, raising the risk for the two sides to blunder into a government shutdown or debt crisis.

Suddenly, the Democrats' \$3.5 trillion reconciliation package and the \$1 trillion bipartisan Senate infrastructure bill -- long the top priority in D.C. -- are taking a back seat to the meat and potatoes of governing. It now seems at least somewhat likely that the "Build Back Better" agenda -- made up of infrastructure and social safety net measures proposed by President **Joe Biden** -- could be delayed until later this fall.

One theory among Democrats is

that Republicans will cave -- if not initially, then after a brief government shutdown or debt default scare during which the Democrats win the political argument that the GOP is an irresponsible partner in governing. Good luck getting someone to say that on the record, but it's the reality we hear privately in the Capitol.

55% of Hill staffers believe that the debt ceiling will be raised through budget reconciliation, with 63% of Republican staffers thinking it will be raised through reconciliation and a little less than half (48%) of Democrats agreeing

ANIVASS

The politics are quite interesting here. There's a strain of thought in Republican circles that a government shutdown and the subsequent legislative crisis would slow the passage of the Democratic agenda, and therefore isn't such a bad outcome. The GOP also wants to punish Democrats for passing on an opportunity to move the debt-limit increase on their own. It could've been included in the reconciliation package, meaning Democrats pass it on their own. Senate Minority Leader **Mitch McConnell** warned Democrats about this in July, yet Democrats decided to move ahead anyway.

We spoke to McConnell Tuesday about all of this and he said there's no way that he'll vote for a debt limit

increase. He expects to be able to hold all his Senate Republicans to this line.

"Let me make it perfectly clear. The country must never default. The debt ceiling will need to be raised. But who does that depends on who the American people elect. I have voted a number of times to raise the debt ceiling in divided government.

"I voted to raise the debt ceiling to cover all of the spending through the present, as part of a bipartisan negotiated caps deal between the previous administration, the speaker and myself. So the only issue is, whose responsibility is it to do it? A Democratic president, a Democratic House, a Democratic Senate.

"We have opposed virtually everything they've done this year. They've done it through two reconciliation bills, a rescue bill and now they're trying to do it again. It's their obligation. They should step up. It's hard being in the majority. They are the ones who will raise the debt limit."

So where does this all leave reconciliation and the Biden agenda? There are so many complicating factors at the moment, but here are the main plot lines we're watching:

1. **Cost:** Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) wants the reconciliation package to total between \$1 trillion and \$1.5 trillion. That doesn't fly with Sen. **Bernie Sanders** (I-Vt.), who told us this week he is "confident" that Congress will pass a \$3.5 trillion bill. President **Joe Biden** will meet separately with Manchin and Sen. **Kyrsten Sinema** (D-Ariz.) this evening at the White House.

2. **Policies:** Manchin not only has issues with the overall cost, but he's also concerned about a permanent extension of the Child Tax Credit, which he wants to make subject to means testing. That won't fly with the progressive-dominated House Democratic Caucus or Ways and Means Committee Chair **Richie Neal** (D-Mass.), who has made this a top personal priority.

3. **Medicare, Medicaid and Obamacare:** This is by far the biggest dispute between the House and Senate Democrats -- and the White House -- in the whole reconciliation debate. House Democrats want to permanently fund Obamacare as part of reconciliation, and they support expanding Medicaid. Sanders and Senate Democrats want to expand

Medicare to cover vision, hearing and dental programs. This is a hugely expensive proposition (although House Democrats backed it in the last Congress) that wouldn't even fully phase in for several years in the case of dental benefits. Big problems here.

4. **Timing:** Pelosi promised a vote on the bipartisan infrastructure bill in the House by Sept. 27. Progressives say they won't vote for infrastructure until they get a reconciliation package. Moderates say they won't vote for reconciliation without infrastructure. What will happen if this debate lasts until late in the year, bogged down in disagreements within the caucus or a long-winded debate about the debt limit or government funding?

At this point, based on weeks of reporting about this standoff, we can't confidently tell you that anyone has a good idea about how this will all play out. We do know it's going to take weeks, if not months, to finish.

Only 49% of staffers believe their member of Congress will vote for a "soft" infrastructure bill passed through reconciliation.

and the party split is stark-- 93% of Democrats think it's likely to pass and 97% of Republican staffers find it unlikely to pass

ANVASS

THE SCHEDULE

Sept. 30 Deadlines

- Surface transportation authorization
- National flood insurance program
- Authorization for TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) & other related programs
- Covid related paid sick leave

Dec. 31 Deadlines

- Coronavirus relief fund for states and localities
- Payroll tax deferral
- Employee retention credit under December 2020 Covid bill
- Enhanced Child Tax Credit under American Rescue Plan (ARP)
- Enhanced Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit under ARP
- Enhanced Earned Income Tax Credit under ARP

LEADERS



→ **Nancy Pelosi:** Nancy Pelosi has suggested this would be her last term atop the House -- but she hasn't made anything official yet. And Pelosi isn't going to relegate herself to "lame duck" status. But with her razor-thin majority in real danger heading into 2022, Pelosi needs a big win on reconciliation to help buttress her vulnerable members. She's not leading the charge to confront Republicans on the debt limit, but rather is working to keep infrastructure and reconciliation on track -- to the extent that's possible. As we reported earlier this week, Pelosi has been refereeing fights between members of the Energy and Commerce Committee over prescription drug policy. Previously, Pelosi had to wrangle moderates who were threatening to slow down action on the entire reconciliation package. Due in part to her overwhelming influence in the caucus, all the problems in the caucus bubble up to the speaker level.

The 2022 midterm elections are shaping up to be quite bumpy for the

Democratic majority, and Pelosi is working feverishly to give her party something she considers transformational to run on. If you ask Pelosi whether she thinks her party will keep control of the chamber, the 81-year-old California Democrat says with gusto that she has no doubt that her majority will hold on next year.

→ **Kevin McCarthy:** If there's one thing political pundits seem to agree on this cycle, it's this -- House Republicans will win the majority in Nov. 2022. That will make Kevin McCarthy the odds-on favorite to become the 55th speaker of the House. McCarthy's goal the next several months is to brand the Democrats \$3.5 trillion reconciliation package as a prime example of one-party control gone wild. Expect that the McCarthy-led House GOP Conference will focus on the spending in the package -- and not as much on taxes. Republicans tell us they believe the spending argument is more effective than running against an increase in the corporate tax rate, which is broadly popular with the American public. GOP insiders tell us McCarthy has a simple political argument to make right now -- Democrats are spending too much and taxing too much. But House Republicans have shown an uncanny ability to complicate straightforward

political tasks, so don't underestimate their ability to screw this up.

McCarthy has been raising piles of money, something he needs to do to keep the GOP afloat. He is the party's cash cow. Much of his 2022 will be focused on keeping the party coffers full, and helping usher candidates to Election Day. If House Republicans do, the personal stakes will then become incredibly high for McCarthy. He'll need to find a majority of those present and voting on the first day of the 118th Congress to back him as the speaker, a goal that's eluded him for the last half-dozen years.

One big wild card for McCarthy -- **Donald Trump**. McCarthy needs Trump to be speaker, but Trump doesn't necessarily need McCarthy. The Washington Post's **Bob Woodward** and **Bob Costa's** new book on Trump, "Peril," reported this is Trump's thinking on McCarthy:

"The book also reveals that Trump is still angry with Republicans who blamed him for the insurrection, including House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy.

"This guy called me every single day, pretended to be my best friend, and then, he fucked me. He's not a

good guy,' Trump said, according to the book.

While McCarthy has walked back his initial comments after the insurrection, Trump is quoted as dismissing McCarthy's attempts to get back into his good graces. 'Kevin came down to kiss my ass and wants my help to win the House back,' Trump said, according to the authors."

McCarthy's office declined to comment on this.

→ **Chuck Schumer:** Schumer has as much at stake here as anyone. Schumer, Pelosi and the White House left the debt limit out of the reconciliation package, giving Democrats a treacherous path to raising the borrowing cap and keeping the federal government open past Sept. 30. Schumer is trying to win an intellectual argument with Senate Minority Leader **Mitch McConnell** -- that Republicans should vote to lift the debt limit. It's a debate that McConnell is completely uninterested in (see above). The worst-case scenario here for Schumer is that the reconciliation, infrastructure, government funding and debt limit all get piled up at the end of 2021. That would be a "cliff" of epic proportions where the political stakes

would be incredibly high. The absolute nightmare case for Schumer is that the reconciliation package falls apart, the bipartisan infrastructure bill gets through and the party faces a legislative crisis.

Schumer has two big jobs as Democratic leader: 1) Trying to keep his moderates and progressives from warring with each other; and 2) protecting his vulnerable senators up in 2022. So far, he's done pretty well. But the next couple of months will be his toughest test yet.

→ **Mitch McConnell:** McConnell's working theory these days is that pretty much everything is Schumer's problem. When it suits him, McConnell reminds reporters that he is the leader of a 50-seat Republican minority, so he should have his say. At other times, McConnell says that Democrats control the Senate, so they should be responsible for raising the debt limit, keeping the government open, investigating the Biden administration or basically anything involving governing.

McConnell plays bare knuckle politics -- there's no other way to explain it. Yes, he voted for the bipartisan infrastructure package. But here we are in mid-September, and

he's pushing for a "clean" stopgap spending bill and is intent on holding all 49 other Republicans against a debt ceiling increase. If the government shuts down or the debt ceiling is breached, Democrats will do everything possible to hold McConnell politically accountable. But McConnell's retort is that his party controls nothing in D.C., so how on earth can he be held to account?

We've said this before, but McConnell's working hypothesis about power is this: "Beat me if you can." This approach seems to work for him.

ISSUES THAT AREN'T GOING AWAY

You're going to notice a theme here. There are several high-profile issues that Democrats have been pushing for years that can get through the House, only to be filibustered into nothingness by Senate Republicans.

Voting rights: Senate Democrats, led by Sens. **Amy Klobuchar** (D-Minn.) and **Joe Manchin** (D-W.Va.), **have agreed to a new voting rights proposal**, the Freedom to Vote Act. But it's still not going anywhere. Stop us if you've heard this before -- Republicans are opposed and are filibustering.

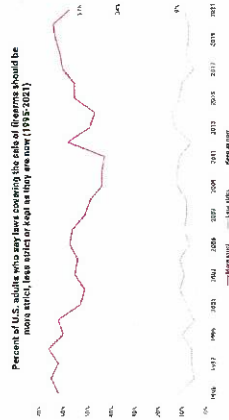
Abortion: **Abortion** has now moved back to the top tier of the national

political debate following the recent Supreme Court decision not to block a Texas "fetal heartbeat" law. Pelosi now will have the House vote as early as next week on legislation mandating a national right to have an abortion. If the legislation makes it through the House, as expected, there will be another Senate Republican filibuster. But make no mistake about it -- abortion will be a key issue in 2022.

Police Reform: In the wake of George Floyd's murder last year — and the wave of national protests that followed — the two parties have tried to reach a deal on police reform. But despite months of talks between Sens. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and Tim Scott (R-S.C.), joined by Rep. Karen Bass (D-Calif.), a deal isn't close. Partisan squabbling and a split between some of the nation's biggest police organizations have left the negotiations in limbo. And now the legislative calendar is working against them.

Guns: Gun violence and murders are up. A majority of Americans favor more gun control, such as universal background checks on gun sales. But Republicans are opposed. So it's blocked and going nowhere. Talks to come up with a compromise have failed time and time again -- and both sides have given up for now.

WHERE AMERICANS STAND ON GUNS



Source: Gallup

WHAT ABOUT THE FILIBUSTER?

Changing the filibuster has been the left's white whale all year. For reasons not entirely clear to us, the left has suggested that altering the 60-vote threshold is not only a possibility, but an immediate likelihood. That's not the case.

Sens. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.) are firmly opposed to changing the 60-vote threshold for legislating. Manchin went as far as to call it "permanent" to us in the Capitol this week. Manchin has previously signaled he would not overturn the 60-vote threshold under

any circumstance.

There's a lot of talk about a so-called filibuster "carve out" for civil rights legislation. Senate insiders consider that a long shot. A carve out would be akin to ending the filibuster, they say, and Manchin and Sinema simply will not go for it.

AFGHANISTAN

One of the newest dynamics on Capitol Hill is the seemingly insatiable thirst to investigate the Biden administration's botched pullout of Afghanistan. But we noticed something new this week: Sen. **Robert Menendez** (D-N.J.), the chair of the Foreign Relations Committee, seems quite eager to slag this White House. Menendez is threatening to subpoena Defense Secretary **Lloyd Austin** if he doesn't testify about Afghanistan. Austin claimed he had a scheduling conflict, and then noted he'd be happy to testify in front of the House or Senate Armed Services committees. That's not going to be enough to satisfy Menendez, who has warned this may impact his thinking on President **Joe Biden's** national security nominees.

Menendez told us Tuesday that he was planning to open an investigation into what he considers 20 years of successive presidents misleading Congress on the war in Afghanistan. That would be quite a wide-ranging probe with real consequence.

It's important to remember this about Menendez -- he was no ally to **Barack Obama** on foreign policy, and he's not one to Biden either necessarily. Menendez opposed Obama's nuclear deal with Iran. When Menendez was indicted for bribery in 2015 -- he beat the charge, of course -- the New Jersey Democrat told donors to his legal-defense fund that one of the reasons it happened was because he opposed Obama on Iran. Menendez will help get Biden's nominees through his panel, but don't expect a rubber stamp on the president's foreign policy initiatives.

We also have been told that Republicans are going to use the annual National Defense Authorization Act to try to handcuff the administration from normalizing relations with the Taliban. We expect this to be one of the major fights in the NDAA debate this fall and winter.

What to know about the big budget battles in Congress

By Amber Phillips

Reporter, The Fix

Today at 9:12 a.m. EDT



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[This article to share free access](#)

...the most challenging in perhaps a decade for Democrats in Congress. They ... keep the government open, raise the debt ceiling to avoid an economic catastrophe, pass emergency natural disaster aid and provide money for resettling Afghan refugees. And that's just their must-do list.

What Democrats really want to do is write and pass a massive spending bill that dramatically expands the federal government safety net. They also want to send a bipartisan infrastructure bill to President Biden's desk, and they are trying to pass voting-rights legislation to counter GOP-led efforts at the state level to restrict how people vote, but that could require a historic rules change in the Senate.

Let's review what Democrats — who are the ones in charge because they have majorities in both chambers — have to do this fall and where the roadblocks are.

What must be done and why

Fund the government: The government's fiscal year ends Sept. 30, and it's Congress's job to fund the government for another year. Congress usually doesn't pass all its appropriation bills in time, so to avoid a government shutdown, it can and probably will pass a short-term spending bill — known as a continuing resolution — that funds the government at last year's levels.

Raise the debt ceiling: When the Treasury Department needs to borrow more money to pay its debts, it has to ask Congress for permission. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen says Congress will need to raise its debt ceiling in October, or the United States could go into default.

Pass emergency disaster aid legislation: At the beginning of September, the White House added another item to Congress's to-do list: Approve tens of billions of dollars to deal with wildfire, hurricane and flood disasters across the country, plus billions to help resettle Afghan refugees.

What else Democrats are trying to do

Pass a bipartisan infrastructure bill: A bill to work on the nation's roads, bridges, pipelines and broadband passed the Senate, with the support of 19 Republicans, and there's an agreement to vote on it this month in the House.

Pass a massive social safety net bill: This is the big one for Democrats. This summer, they approved the outlines of a \$3.5 trillion bill that would create universal pre-K, provide free community college and expand Medicare, among its many provisions. No Republicans voted with them on this one. It could be one of the biggest pieces of legislation ever. Now they need to determine the policy details and write legislation laying out exactly what they want to spend that money on and vote on it again. They're trying to get that done by the end of this month, but lawmakers are starting to say this could drag on for weeks longer than they want.

Pass a voting rights bill: Democrats are running out of time to create a national standard for how people vote. This is in response to Republican-led states that are restricting voting rights in ways that particularly target voters of color and a redistricting cycle in which Republicans can gerrymander their way back into power in the House of Representatives. Senate Democrats have a compromise bill that all 50 members of their caucus support, but it will almost certainly face a Republican filibuster, meaning they have to decide whether they want to tweak or overhaul or even get rid of the filibuster.

Why Democrats are doing much of this alone

Democrats have only a slim majority in Congress, and it's a very partisan Congress at that. Plus, in the Senate, Republicans can filibuster legislation and require Democrats to secure at least 10 Republican votes to get over that filibuster. We're expecting such a filibuster on those must-do's — funding the government and raising the debt ceiling. Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) said he'll filibuster raising the debt ceiling.

But Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has repeatedly said Senate Republicans won't vote to raise the debt ceiling. He's playing a daring game of brinkmanship that could mean Congress doesn't have the votes to raise it, period. And that could mean the government defaults on its loans.

Democrats don't expect any GOP votes for their \$3.5 trillion spending plan. The only way they're getting this done is to go around Republicans and pass this massive bill through a process called reconciliation. Reconciliation lets Congress pass bills directly related to spending with a simple majority of votes — the minority cannot block these bills with a filibuster.

Passing legislation with only one party might sound easier than having to compromise with the other. But mathematically, it means Democrats have fewer votes to work with to get their big legislative priorities done. And that means any one senator or a handful of Democrats in the House of Representatives could block this.

What could go wrong for Democrats

Let us count the ways.

So much is riding on their ability to pass these bills this fall — there are big economic and political consequences. If there's a shutdown or the government defaults on its debts because Congress could not raise the debt ceiling, it will be happening while Democrats are in charge of Washington.

Molly Reynolds, a Brookings Institution analyst of congressional budgets, said a government shutdown isn't out of the question. In the Senate, just one lawmaker can put his or her foot down on an issue by filibustering and gumming up the process. With Congress debating so much, that could happen with any number of issues. (Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky did this a few years ago over objections about spending, and the government briefly shut down overnight.)

And Democrats have very little margin for error among themselves to pass that huge social safety net legislation. The Senate is split 50-50, and House Democrats have only a handful of votes to spare.

Getting everyone on the same page on a bill this big is going to be tricky. Moderate Democrats such as Sens. Joe Manchin III of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona want the \$3.5 trillion bill to be significantly smaller, potentially by as much as half.

And moderate House lawmakers also are worried about passing something they don't have an ability to pay for. "The money is just not there," one Democratic lawmaker told The Washington Post's Tony Romm.

These lawmakers are backed by outside groups that are worried about how much this bill could add to the federal debt. "I think it's very concerning they may well not end up paying for it," said Maya MacGuineas, president of the nonpartisan Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. "The scale of this is truly massive," she added.

But liberals in the House — a significant and growing faction — are demanding that Congress spend \$3.5 trillion and not a penny less. "There is no flexibility on the price tag, and it's not because I care about what the top line is," Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-Wash.), who leads the roughly 100-member strong Congressional Progressive Caucus, told Romm. "It's because I care about delivering on these benefits."

Liberals want to know what the moderates in their party would cut from this package. It's a good question. Expensive proposals in the legislation such as the child-care tax credit, paid family leave and Medicare expansion are quite popular with voters.

The underlying dynamic is that this may be the Democrats' first and last chance to make a big mark before they lose power in Washington. Democrats can dodge a Senate Republican filibuster only once or twice for legislation, and then they will be facing the 2022 midterm elections, in which their majorities in both chambers are at risk. It's possible that Biden finishes his first term with a divided or fully Republican-controlled Congress.

What could go wrong for Republicans

The pressure isn't just on Democrats. Republicans need to navigate political risks, too.

The firmest line they have drawn is that they won't help Democrats raise the debt ceiling. "Do you guys think I'm bluffing?" McConnell told Punchbowl News recently. But what happens if Democrats fold that vote into a broader bill to fund the government and approve natural disaster aid to help many Republican states as well? Would Republicans vote against that?

"Ultimately, I think the financial interests that would be badly harmed by a default and that are very supportive of the Republican Party would not tolerate that," said David Super, a federal budget expert at Georgetown Law.

In addition, surveys indicate that, for now, Democrats' proposals in their \$3.5 trillion social safety net bill are generally popular with Americans. Republicans have tried out various lines of attack on this — it will add to inflation, Democrats are the party of too-big government — but it's possible that nothing sticks, and they lose this policy battle.

"The fact we haven't seen a concerted, substantive attack on this," Super said, "tells me that Republicans are somewhat divided on what's a good attack and what's not."

Section 7002 YTD FLISA Treasurer's Report
July 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2022 (as of September 13, 2021)

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	FY21-22 Adopted Budget	FY21-22 YTD Actual	Variance	FY20-21 Actual	FY19-20 Actual	FY18-19 Actual
Revenue						
1 Membership dues (2) (6) (12) (13)	22,000	17,950	(4,050)	12,550	21,600	21,750
2 Winter Conference (5) (8)	4,500		(4,500)		4,960	5,120
3 Summer Conference (4)	4,500	200	(4,300)	1,000	-	4,160
4 Total Revenue	31,000	18,150	(12,850)	13,550	26,560	31,030
Expenditures						
6 Executive Director						
7 Compensation (7)(11)	10,000	5,000	(5,000)	10,000	10,000	10,000
8 Travel	5,000	597	(4,403)	95	3,170	8,409
9 Printing/other (9)	2,000		(2,000)	809	2,194	1,565
10 Subtotal	17,000	5,597	(11,403)	10,904	15,363	19,975
11 Executive Committee						
12 Printing	300	-	(300)	-	-	36
13 Office/Other/Contingency	750		(750)			500
14 Subtotal	1,050	-	(1,050)	-	-	536
15 FRO/MISA/NIISA Outreach (3)						
16 Travel	1,500	-	(1,500)	-	500	2,036
17 Printing/Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
18 Subtotal	1,500	-	(1,500)	-	500	2,036
19 General Operations						
20 Bank Charges	-	87	87		12	-
21 Website Development/Maintenance (10)	2,500		(2,500)	588	617	926
22 Software License	500	456	(44)	228	755	360
23 Printing	200		(200)			193
24 Miscellaneous	600		(600)	1,335	132	9
25 Winter Conference (8)	4,500		(4,500)	2,000	3,676	5,901
26 Summer Conference (4)	4,500	858	(3,642)	-	-	1,556
27 Subtotal	12,800	1,401	(11,399)	4,151	5,192	8,943
28 Total Expenditures	32,350	6,998	(25,352)	15,055	21,055	31,490
29 Net Income	(1,350)	11,152	12,502	(1,505)	5,505	(460)
30 Beginning Balance	65,097	65,097	(0)	66,602	61,097	61,558
31 Ending Balance	63,747	76,249	12,502	65,097	66,602	61,097
32 Winter Conference Revenue	4,500	-	(4,500)	-	4,960	5,120
33 Winter Conference Expenditures (8)	4,500	-	(4,500)	2,000	3,676	5,901
34 Winter Conference Net Income	-	-	-	(2,000)	1,284	(781)
35 Summer Conference Revenue	4,500	200	(4,300)	1,000	-	4,160
36 Summer Conference Expenditures (4)	4,500	858	(3,642)	-	-	1,556
37 Summer Conference Net Income	-	(658)	(658)	1,000	-	2,604

SEE FOOTNOTES ON REVERSE SIDE OF PAGE

Section 7002 YTD FLISA Treasurer's Report
July 1, 2021 thru June 30, 2022 (as of September 13, 2021)

Footnotes:

- 2) Dues for FY08 - FY12 were charged in accordance with the by-law amendment at Fall '08 NAFIS meeting.
- 3) On 6/26/15 the Exec Board approved FLISA representation/attendance at MISA and NISA meetings as well as Fed Rel Outreach.
- 4) Summer conference expenses and income may not be recorded by June 30th.
- 5) As a result of fund balance growth, at the fall 2011 meeting the 8002 Executive Board proposed to reduce the winter & summer meeting registration fees to \$50 (from approx \$150) per person, not including add'l meals. This is reflected in FY12-FY15 data.
NOTE: At March 2014 meeting, the Exec Board approved returning to \$150 registration for summer/winter meetings beginning 2015-16.
- 6) Dues for FY13 - FY15 are established at 50% of the rate established by the fall '08 by-law amendment, per summer '12 by-law amendment. Beginning in FY16 dues return to 100% of the rate established by the fall 2008 by-law amendment.
- 7) Executive Board approved additional \$500 to Exec Dir compensation for 2013-14.
- 8) The 2014-15 winter meeting was hosted by NISA in Las Vegas. NISA collected all revenue and paid all expenses, thus nothing appears on the 8002 books for the event.
- 9) On 6/26/15 the Exec Board increased the budget for expenses related to Exec Dir cell phone service and computer purchase/lease.
- 10) On 6/26/15 the Exec Board approved expenditures for website design in 2015-16 and annual maintenance in subsequent years.
- 11) On 6/23/18 membership approved an amended budget for 2018-19 that increased Executive Director compensation to \$10,000.
- 12) Dues for FY20 - FY21 are established at 50% of the rate established at the May 5, 2020 meeting.
- 13) Dues for FY21-FY22 are restored to 100% of the rate.



Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

FLISA Talking Points for September 21, 2021 Hill Visits

1. On behalf of the nearly 900,000 children enrolled in federally impacted schools in our community and across the country, I would like to thank you for your support of Impact Aid and the increase in funding for all impact aid schools under FY 20 and FY 21 Budgets.

- 🇺🇸 We are hopeful that we can again see an increase of \$2M for 7002 Schools in FY 22
- 🇺🇸 COVID Dollars are great (give examples) but not operating funds like Impact Aid.
- 🇺🇸 Pass Reconciliation Bill with House Level Appropriations for Spending
(Also includes \$\$ for school construction for our 7003 partners.)

2. "Advancing Toward Full Impact Aid Funding" Act (SB and HB Numbers TBD)

Because of the end of the budget caps and the new administration, NAFIS recommends introduction of an authorizing bill aimed at advancing towards fully funding the Impact Aid program. This means fully funding the Basic Support formula, providing a proportional increase to Federal Property. This legislation would lay out a five-year glidepath to Impact Aid full funding, splitting the \$1.1 billion request evenly over five years. The total increase for each year would be \$210 million.

3. The Federal Government has seized valued land in our school districts for a variety of reasons, making that land exempt from the property taxes that support schools.
 - 🇺🇸 The Federal Government acknowledged its responsibility and initiated the Impact Aid program in 1950.
 - 🇺🇸 Today, the Federal Government provides impacted schools approximately less than 10% nationwide of the lost tax revenue.
 - 🇺🇸 In school districts where there is a federal land, local property taxpayers are penalized by having to pay more in taxes, or school districts are forced to reduce programs.
4. New lands added by the Federal Government in recent years mean that more schools share the same amount of funds—each getting a smaller piece of the pie. At the very least, Congress should provide additional funding to account for newly acquired lands so that schools don't have to share the same amount of funding.

5. Be sure to give a specific example of how not increasing 7002 funds will impact your district.

Funding History

								FLISA REQUEST
SEQUESTER FY 13	FY 14/15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22
\$63,445,000	66,813,000	66,813,000	68,813,000	73,313,000	74,313,000	75,313,000	76,313,000	78,313,000

6. If they have not already, please ask them to join the Impact Aid Coalition (**If interested please notify NAFIS Director of Policy and Advocacy Leslie Finnan at leslie@nafisd.org, to follow-up**). Ask the staffer to let you know when the Member has signed and/or joined so you can include this information in your next school newsletter and community meeting. (Offer an invitation to visit your schools).

REMEMBER THE FLISA TALKING PTS:

- ⬆️ Impact Aid **FUNDING** at **HOUSE** levels (\$2M=7002) (\$100M + 7003)
- ⬆️ INFRASTRUCTURE: REBUILD AMERICAS SCHOOLS ACT
- JOIN THE COALITION -- SIGN THE DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER BOTH Non-Partisan**

7. Thank staffer for meeting with you & remind them of the date of the Spring NAFIS conference on March 13, 2022 (Hill Visits on March 15th). Offer to be a resource of additional information and direct the staff member to our website: www.FLISA.org



Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association (FLISA) represents approximately 200 school districts and nearly 900,000 children that have federally owned land within their district boundaries, land for which the Federal Government pays no property taxes to schools. FLISA is a sub-group of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS).

- The Federal Government has seized valued land in our school districts for a variety of reasons from military bases to national parks, from Army Corps of Engineer projects and laboratories to wildlife conservation areas, making them exempt from the property taxes that support school children. Before the federal takeover, these lands generated property taxes that supported school children.
- School districts are dependent upon local property taxes as a major revenue source to fund educational programs for the federally impacted children they serve. Because the Federal Government does not pay property taxes, the revenue for these schools is dramatically reduced.
- The Federal Government acknowledged its responsibility and initiated the Impact Aid program in 1950. Today, the Federal Government provides impacted schools approximately less than 10% nationwide of the lost tax revenue.
- In school districts where there is a federal property, local property taxpayers are penalized by paying higher taxes or school districts are forced to reduce programs, unjustly depriving federally impacted children of the educational opportunities they need and deserve. Property owners should not be responsible for both their own property taxes, plus the Federal Government's share.
- Children and student achievement suffer the most. Impact aid funds critical instructional programs for teaching and learning. These dollars directly support the education and achievement of nearly 900,000 federally impacted children.
- Congress has the obligation to provide additional funding to account for newly acquired lands so that funds are not reduced further. In essence, more schools have to share the same amount of funding.
- "Advancing Toward Full Impact Aid Funding" Act**
Authorizing bill aimed at advancing towards fully funding the Impact Aid program. This means fully funding the Basic Support formula, providing a proportional increase to Federal Property. This legislation would lay out a five-year glidepath to Impact Aid full funding, splitting the \$1.1 billion request evenly over five years. The total increase for each year would be \$210 million.
- With your assistance, we are hopeful that we can see an increase of \$2M for these 7002 Schools in the FY 22 budget. **We support the Reconciliation Bill with House spending amounts for Impact Aid and School Construction.**

Funding History

								FLISA REQUEST
SEQUESTER FY 13	FY 14/15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22
\$63,445,000	66,813,000	66,813,000	68,813,000	73,313,000	74,313,000	75,313,000	76,313,000	78,313,000

- Please join the Impact Aid Coalition. Information is available at www.NAFISDC.org or please contact the NAFIS Director of Policy and Advocacy Leslie Finnan at Leslie@nafisdc.org. Additionally, the Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association website www.FLISA.org is a terrific source of information.



Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association (FLISA) represents approximately 200 school districts that have federally owned land within their district boundaries, land for which the Federal government pays no property taxes to schools. FLISA is a sub-group of the National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS).

You've made it to Washington...Now What?? First Time Attendee's Guide to Federal Lands and NAFIS September 2021

On behalf of the nearly 900,000 children enrolled in federally impacted schools in our community and across the country, **thank you** for taking time to attend and lend your voice to our efforts to preserve funding for Federally Impacted Schools. Being new to this conference can be quite overwhelming, so we have created this 1-page (everything in Washington can be broken down to a 1-page flyer) guide to Federal Properties and the NAFIS conference.

First, don't feel like you have to know everything about all of these federal programs and acronyms. It simply can't be done...unless you're Tom Madden (the former FLISA Executive Director), and he has been doing this for decades. Second, don't be afraid to ask...we can find the answers together. Here are some answers you may want right now.

What are Federal Property Schools? We are approximately 200 school districts across the country that have federally owned tax-exempt property within their district boundaries...anything from military bases to national parks from Army Corps of Engineer projects and laboratories to wildlife conservation areas, making them exempt from the property taxes that support schools.

Who attends these meetings? Many of the school superintendents, business managers, or assistant superintendents at this conference have been lobbying Congress and working to create Impact Aid legislation for some time. There is a great deal of history in the room and much of what is in place now is reflective of many years of effort. But more important than our organization's past is **you**...our organization's future. We look forward to your input.

What happens when I go to the hill on Tuesday? You will find out that the country is run by twenty-somethings...but very knowledgeable twenty-somethings. We have many 1-page hand-outs for you to use and will be happy to review with you before Tuesday. It is really an interesting experience. Every member of the Federal Properties Team looks forward to meeting with you...

Specifically feel free to reach out to:

Tom Schneider, Executive Director President of NAFIS Board (schneiderthomasw@hotmail.com)

Cathie Peznowski, President-Elect for FLISA (cpezanoski@gmail.com)

Mark Naugle, President (mark.naugle@k12.sd.us)

Tom Madden, Former Executive Director (tommadden@rocketmail.com)

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you should need any additional information regarding the importance of Impact Aid and your attendance at this conference. Welcome.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Anne O'Brien, Director of Communications
National Association of Federally Impacted Schools
202-624-3611
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NAFIS Supports the *Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act*

Legislation would increase resources and opportunities for students across the country

Washington, DC – September 15, 2021 – Today, Representatives Mike Levin (D-CA-49) and Don Young (R-AK-AL) introduced H.R. 5255, the *Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act*. This important bill authorizes Congress to fully fund the Impact Aid Basic Support formula, fund a proportional increase to the Federal Property program and increase funding for federally impacted students with disabilities throughout the country. The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) strongly supports this legislation.

Impact Aid is a Federal education program that partially reimburses school districts for the lost revenue and additional costs associated with the presence of nontaxable Federal property, such as military installations, Indian Trust, Treaty and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands, Federal low-rent housing, national parks, and other Federal buildings and property. Most school districts are funded largely through local taxes and fees, so districts containing tax-exempt Federal property are at a disadvantage in funding their schools.

Impact Aid recognizes the Federal government's responsibility to help finance public education in areas where it holds land. However, it has been underfunded for over 50 years. The *Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act* helps ensure the schools and communities affected by the Federal presence can provide high-quality educational opportunities.

"Impact Aid plays an important role in school districts' efforts to provide all students with the opportunities they need to meet their full potential," says NAFIS Executive Director Hilary Goldmann. "But some school districts and the students they serve – which includes large numbers of military-connected and Native American students – have been shortchanged hundreds of thousands of dollars because the program is not fully funded. This important legislation would get closer to fulfilling the Federal obligation to students in federally impacted school districts."

Additional investments in Impact Aid are critical to help school districts close achievement gaps, update technology, expand access to early childhood and afterschool programs, integrate culturally relevant curriculum, replace failing infrastructure, offer competitive salaries to recruit and retain school leaders and more.

"We thank Representatives Levin and Young for their leadership on this important issue," continued Goldmann. "Now, we ask Congress to act to ensure federally impacted school districts have the resources they need to offer high-quality educational opportunities."

###

The National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS) represents the 1,100-plus federally impacted public school districts that together educate more than 10 million students across the nation. Federally impacted school districts are those located on or near nontaxable Federal property—including military installations; Indian Trust, Treaty and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act lands; Federal low-income housing facilities; and national parks, national laboratories and other Federal buildings and property. These school districts, which are demographically and geographically diverse, receive Impact Aid, a Federal education program that reimburses school districts for the lost local revenue and additional costs associated with the presence of Federal property. To learn more, visit <https://www.nafisdc.org/>.

Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act



Representatives Mike Levin (D-CA) and Don Young (R-AK) introduced the *Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act* to fully fund Impact Aid and support national K-12 education.

➤ Background

Federal land—such as military installations, Indian treaty, trust or Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act land, and federal properties and facilities—are tax exempt. Most public school districts rely on local taxes and fees for funding. Thus, public school districts containing federal property have significantly less tax revenue to meet school districts' needs.

In 1950, Congress created Impact Aid to provide federal support for public school districts where federal activity has reduced the available tax base. Impact Aid provides payments in lieu of taxes for schools to use for instructional materials, technology, staffing, and other educational needs.¹

Impact Aid supports more than 1,100 school districts and over 10 million students. Despite national dependency, Congress has not fully funded Impact Aid since 1969. Impact Aid is also the only K-12 federal education program that is not forward funded, so any delay in appropriations inhibits schools from covering day-to-day operations.²

Funding Impact Aid directly impacts schools. Federal payments benefit school districts and are flexible to student needs. This bill would provide necessary funding for disadvantaged schools.

➤ Legislation

The *Advancing Toward Impact Aid Full Funding Act* introduces a five-year plan to fund Impact Aid and would do the following:

- Split Impact Aid's \$1.1 billion request evenly over five years, across three main categories for funding: Basic Support, Federal Property, and Children with Disabilities.
- Increase Basic Support funding by \$190 million annually, meeting Impact Aid's 2019 funding requests.
- Increase Federal Property funding proportionally to Basic Support by allocating an additional \$11 million annually.
- Increase funding for Children with Disabilities by \$9 million annually, funding \$2,000 per eligible student.
- Advance national K-12 school systems to become more equitable and meet educational needs.
- Support military families and Native American communities that are especially impacted by federally tax-exempt land.

➤ Endorsements

- National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS)
- National Education Association (NEA)
- Blue Star Families
- Military Child Education Coalition
- Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS)
- Service Women's Action Network
- National Military Family Association

¹ National Association of Federally Impacted Schools (NAFIS), <https://www.nafisdc.org/impact-aid-resources/about-impact-aid/>

² NAFIS, <https://www.nafisdc.org/impact-aid-resources/about-impact-aid/>



Leland is a K-12 public school located in northwest lower Michigan in the Leelanau Peninsula encompassing 44,606 acres of rural agricultural land and includes the The Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. As an in-formula district, we rely on the Federal Impact Aid we receive, which provides 11% of total annual budget, to support our district. In 2019, we were only 37% reimbursed for the qualified payment of \$3.497 million for our Federal lands. A fully funded FIA payment would significantly improve our ability to deliver the high quality, rigorous educational programming our students and families deserve.

CURRENT IMPACT AID EXPENDITURES

Personnel



- Employ staff - state funding is insufficient to finance personnel costs to implement the unfunded MTSS, social and emotional, testing, and other curricular and programming mandates

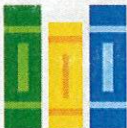
EXISTING NEED FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Personnel



- Hire Tier II literacy interventionists
- Hire full-time K-12 social worker
- Add an elementary counselor
- Hire early childhood programming staff
- Provide for full-time athletic and activities director
- Hire administrative assistant/office manager/HR director

Programming



- Allows for core content area curriculum materials
- Allows for International Baccalaureate Program staff training
- Allows for social-emotional curriculum materials

Programming



- Develop early childhood programming
- Develop onsite special education categorical services for high needs students with IEPs
- Provide STEM and technology electives
- Provide more advanced level electives
- Complete IB programming with Diploma Track opportunities

Impact Aid



- Necessary to maintain quality educational opportunities
- Budget deficit reality even with FIA funding
- Necessary to continue to attract families and students - allows us to compete with neighboring out-of-formula districts

Fully Fund



- To provide tiered supports to our 40% at-risk population
- To provide individualized supports to our students with IEPs
- To provide full and differentiated programming for all students

CREATE YOUR ELEVATOR PITCH

Use this worksheet to prepare your 60 second elevator speech to share who you are, explain why Impact Aid matters, and make your ask to policymakers.

IDENTIFY YOUR AUDIENCE

Who is your elected official?
Who are you meeting with?
What is their motivation?
Are they Impact Aid (IA)
supporters?

IDENTIFY YOURSELF

Who are you? What school
district do you represent?

YOUR STORY

How does your district use
IA? What % of your budget
is IA? What would you have
to cut if IA were eliminated?
What have you accomplished
using IA? (Share stories)

THE ASK

What do you want
the policymaker to do?
(Reference your NAFIS
talking points)

Practice out loud and then contact your elected officials.

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Federal Lands Impacted Schools Association

Education For Children, Fairness for Taxpayers

FLISA Winter Meeting 2022

FRIDAY, January 7, 2022—9AM-4PM Eastern Time
Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM AND INVOICE

PLEASE PRINT/TYPE ALL INFORMATION:

School District: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Emergency
Contact Name/Phone: _____

Meeting Participants Name(s): _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Conference Registration includes meeting room and a post meeting reception (open to attendees and their guests). Breakfast will be on your own.

Conference Registration \$160 X _____ (Number of Participants) Total \$ _____

Please mail your payment with this form by **December 8, 2021** made payable to FLISA to:

FLISA
Attention: Finance Department
1110 Chapel Hills Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80920

Hotel Reservations: Make your hotel reservations as early as possible. **Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach, 301 S. Gulfview Boulevard, Clearwater, Florida.** Meeting participants should use this link: <https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/PIERC/G-FEDE> to reserve their room under the group name FILSA. The rates of \$219 (+\$8 Resort Fee) per night extend through the weekend should some of the meeting participants want to stay in the area longer between January 5th-9th. The hotel will only hold rooms thru December 8th.

Federal Lands Winter Meeting

Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort and Spa

Welcome to Hyatt! We look forward to hosting the Federal Lands Winter Meeting. Please book your guest room below. For any issues or if you would like to make reservations over the phone, the number is 877-803-7534.

The Resort Fee will be \$8 per room, per day for the official event dates, 1/5-1/9/2022

Guests will have access to book at the discounted block rate from now until 12/08/2021

Your group's dates are below. You can also choose your desired stay dates within this time frame:



Hotel

Hyatt Regency Clearwater Beach Resort and Spa



Dates

Wed, Jan 5, 2022 - Sun, Jan 9, 2022



Group Code

G-FEDE

If you need to modify or cancel your group reservation, [click here](#). If you need assistance, please [contact us](#).



Wed, Jan 05



Sun, Jan 09

FIND ROOMS



1 Room, 1 Guest



G-FEDE



☐ Accessible Room



Join World of Hyatt as you book to earn and redeem points on stays, dining, spa experiences, and more.



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VISIT HOTEL WEBSITE

Review of Planning the Plan FLISA Meeting 6-25-21 Deadwood, SD

Review of Mission, Vision and Guiding Principles:

We thought the Mission, Vision, and Guiding Principles are sound and should drive everything we do as an organization.

Mission: No Change
 Looks Good

Vision: No Change
 Attainable vs. End Game (Do we update periodically)

**Guiding
Principals:** 7002 fair and equitable (what does this look like?)
 Don't Harm Other Districts

Goal: Great Goal

Strengths: Mission, Vision and Guiding Principals still hold true and give focus.

Weakness: Emphasis involvement

--Note: If we expand number of member districts without increase in dollars allocated for FLISA, it is a challenge dealing with a smaller pie.

Essential Question: How can we best organize this work so stuff gets done?

- We should make our goals simpler and clearer.
- Our goals. Should be short, sweet, and to the point.
- We think they should be simple enough that our members could recite the goals.
- Some examples of goals going forward would be:
 - With the turnover of members, we should introduce new people to FLISA by assigning them a Mentor. This could provide history, resources, and answer questions.
 - We have always had a membership goal, but to simplify it we suggested starting with just two districts and pinpoint them for increased participation. We could start with Districts that have previously been very active.
 - San Diego, CA
 - York County School District, VA
 - Our technology goal could be to answer the question to stream (zoom) our meetings after we are in-person again. Will we promote people who cannot come to NAFIS or our FLISA Meetings can be with us remotely?
- Increase number of district involvement:
 - Goal: 50% of district's join FLISA
 - 50% actively involved
- Prioritize advocacy efforts to powerful members of Congress
- Educate FLISA members to successfully lobby Congress
- How many new Federal Property Districts have joined in the last five years. Can we use this data to advocate for an increase in Federal Property allocation?
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- Timeframe for what needs to be done when
- Scheduled outreach between September and March meetings
 - Thank you notes
 - Updates
 - Local offices
- Strengthening state groups
- Sharing stories to create team and have other local school stories of Impact Aid
- Best practices from State level groups
- Reporting back accountability

Advocacy Action Plan—Essential Questions

Advocacy Action Plan—Essential Questions

A. *What is our **Message** for this Congressional Term?*

1. **Impact Aid Dollars Advocacy Message**

a) **What Does Full Funding Look Like**

(1) *Memo to Biden Transition Team (+\$54M--\$129M Total)*

(2) *How are Impact Aid Dollars distributed*

b) **Arguments for Funding Now to Congress**

c) **Arguments for funding at Home**

2. **At Congress (Who Do We Need to See?—Targeted Lobbying/Messaging)**

(1) *Our Federal Lands Members of Congress*

(a) *See FLISA Above 80K FY 19 Spreadsheet,*

(2) *Key Committee Members of Congress*

b) **At Home (Who Do We Need to See?)**

(1) *School Community (Boards/Teachers/Students)*

(2) *Media*

c) **At Home (How do we communicate?)**

(1) *School Community (Boards/Teachers/Students)*

(2) *Media*

B. *How do we **PLAN** to improve **ACTION** among members as an **ORGANIZATION**?*

1. **What Does Member Action Between Meetings Look Like?**

2. **Homework Assignments for the quarter between meetings**

a) **Using Mid-Quarter Zoom Temperature Checks**

C. *How do we **PLAN** to **Maintain** Organization?*

1. **Increased Participation**

a) **Currently 68—Last Yr 61 Districts Paying Dues,**

b) **Recruiting Districts to Support FLISA**

c) **Measures of Involvement (What does it look like?)**

2. **Organization Health**

a) **FLISA Financial Situation,**

b) **Continued Balanced Leadership,**

Messaging Committee

Prepare messaging for FLISA Audiences:

- Congress
- School Community (Community, Taxpayers, Schools)

Coordinate with NAFIS messaging

Create and Distribute Messaging to those “audiences” (i.e. social media, 1-pager, website Twitter)

Subcommittee: Social Media Messaging (Twitter, etc. website)

Advocacy Committee

Step 1

Determine which members of Congress:

- are we in communication with by FLISA Membership,
- receive Impact Aid Land are FLISA is in communication with their offices
- should we be in communication with (i.e. committee chairpersons)

Step 2

Determine how FLISA will:

- Communicate with members of Congress who we are **not in** communication with but receive impact aid.
- Communicate with members of Congress are in important positions and we **should be in** communication with.

Membership Committee

Increase:

- participation in FLISA Advocacy
- FLISA membership
 - Appeal/Outreach to those districts we are representing in advocacy
- fellowship and a sense of community among FLISA Members

Subcommittee: Location Selection Sub-Committee

Subcommittee: Fellowship Sub-Committee

Possible By-Law/Board Changes

1. **Committee Chairs** allows for between meeting meetings (i.e. zoom temperature checks)

2. Opportunity for **Leadership development**

Change by-laws to allow Committee Chairs to:

- Become FLISA Executive Board Members
(Eventually phase out At-Large Members/Keep Past-Pres)
- Shorten duration to leadership thru Committee Chairs
(i.e. Chairperson 1 yr.--then Pres-Elect 1 yr--then Pres 1 yr.)

ARTICLE IX – BYLAWS

Section 1. The Executive Board may recommend to the members such bylaws as may be desirable to achieve the purposes of the organization.

Section 2. The members may, by a 2/3 majority vote of those voting representatives present at a regular or special meeting, add, change or delete bylaws.

Section 3. The Executive Board may not take action which is inconsistent with or make changes to the bylaws adopted by the membership.

Section 4. Notice of proposed changes, along with the comments of the Executive Board and interested members shall be provided to members at least thirty days prior to the scheduled meeting or date for the mail ballot.

Section 5. Through future reauthorizations or other changes in the language of the Impact Aid Program, the SECTION number may change. At such times, these bylaws will be changed to reflect the current SECTION number. Such changes will not require a vote of the membership.

COLUMNISTS

*

Americans were scared of polio vaccine too

Eager to contrast today's anti-vax hysteria with universal joy at the polio vaccine in the '50s? It wasn't that simple.

By Neil Steinberg | Aug 31, 2021,
10:42am CDT

Coronavirus Newsletter

Essential information sent to your
inbox, once per week.



The Fox News
of his day,
columnist and
radio
commentator
Walter
Winchell
sowed fear
about the
safety of the
polio vaccine
before it was
even tested. |
Associated
Press

SIGN UP

My father once said that people were kinder when he was a boy.

I couldn't let that slow pitch by without swinging.

"This era of kindness of which you speak," I replied. "Is it the Great Depression or World War II? Because I just don't see it."

He had no answer. Nostalgic types never do, those who romanticize the past, being ignorant of the bulk of it. They mistake what

Opinion

they personally experienced, or think they experienced, for what everyone else went through. It's not the same.

I wish I could cure them of this bad habit. Because believing the past was better makes our awful present seem even worse. Not only are there shootings on the expressways, but back in the day we'd sleep in the park in summer and fear no man. Pretty to think so.

So I take a certain satisfaction in recalling the horrors of the past. When people talk of an unprecedented fracture in our nation that is more divided than ever, I'll mutter, "Well, there was the Civil War. That was worse."

Or this vaccine business. One reader commented Monday: "We are unfortunately, dealing with outright morons in our society at this moment, something that didn't happen in the 1950s, when I remember lining up for the polio vaccine, which everyone & I do mean everyone hailed as a flat out miracle."

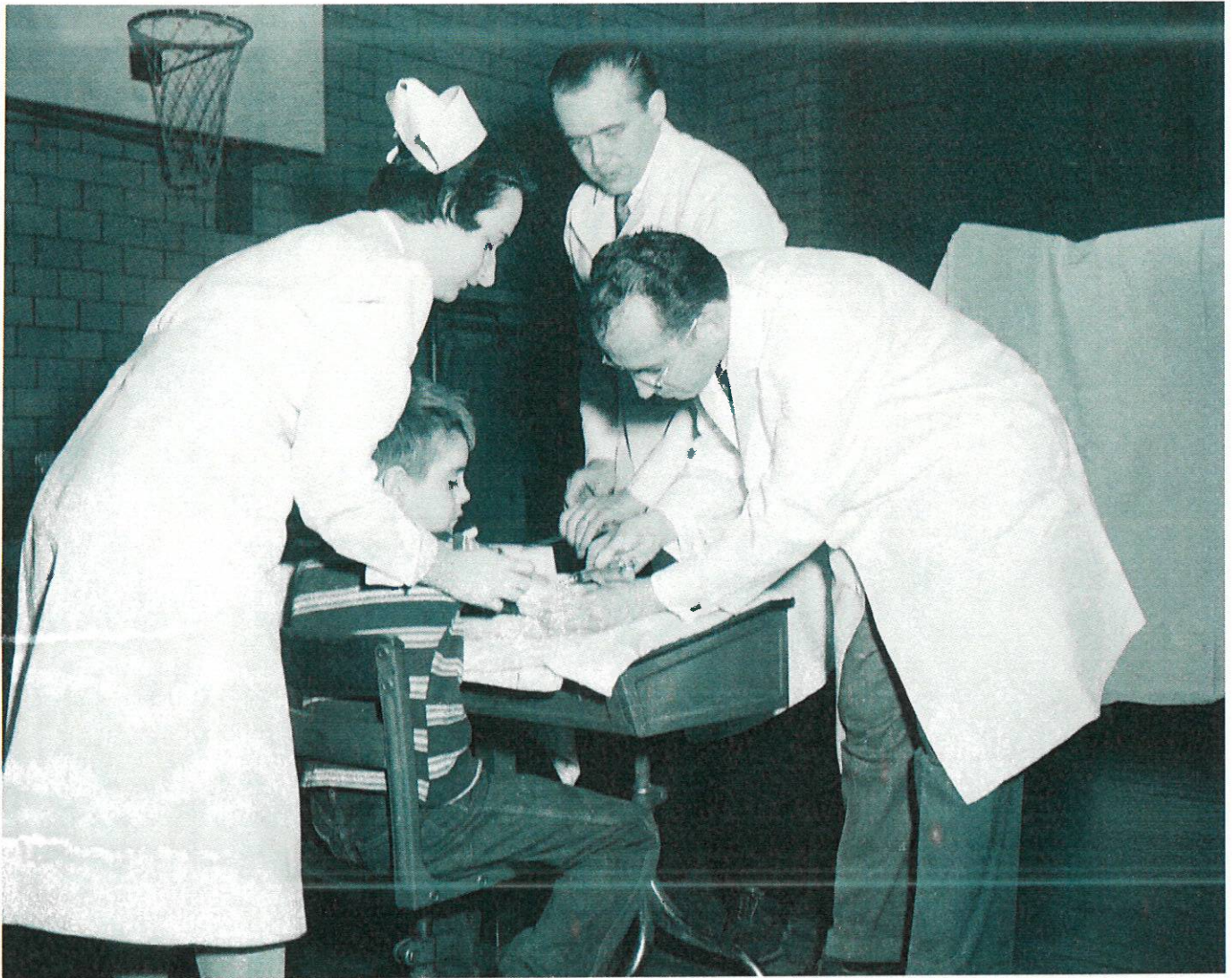
Not quite *everyone*. Reading that, the machine-gun staccato of Walter Winchell's voice barked into mind.

"Good morning, Mr. and Mrs. America and all the ships at sea," the nation's most popular columnist said on April 4, 1954, to his nationwide radio and TV audience of some 50 million. "Attention everyone! In a few moments, I will report on a new polio vaccine claimed to be a cure. It may be a killer."

The vaccine hadn't even been tested yet. Authorities, Winchell claimed, wrongly, were stockpiling "little white coffins" to handle the vaccine's victims. That week, 150,000 children were yanked out of the vaccine trials.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, showing a bit of partisan pride — Dr. Jonas Salk developed his vaccine at the University of Pittsburgh — fired back, noting Winchell was "distinguished for a long career of washroom gossip, self-glorification and journalistic vendettas of the basest sort."

Sound familiar?



Dr. Jonas Salk, Pittsburgh scientist who discovered the Polio vaccine, administers an injection to a boy at Arsenal Elementary School in Pittsburgh in February 1954. | Associated Press

“What was even more distressing was that many of the medical profession took advice from Winchell rather than scientific sources,” said Dr. Robert F. Korn, a member of the national evaluation team — the trials were run privately. The government wouldn’t help because that would be socialized medicine.

Ring a bell?

People are people, unfortunately. Just as we minimize the key role that ignorance and fear play in forming public attitudes today, we forget how Americans faced the past with all the cowardice and confusion on rampant display today.

I just happened to pick up A.J. Liebling's "The Road Back to Paris." He is in France for the nine months of inertia and magical thinking between the time the Germans invaded Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, and when they came for France nine months later.

Liebling flees home one step ahead of the Nazis, and wanders New York in blinking shock at how blithely unaware everybody is about what's happening in Europe. First, he recounts how tired the Republicans are with elections if all they do is give power to the likes of Franklin Roosevelt.

"They began to despair of democracy and to get vocal about it," he wrote. "What good was a system under which the majority of people voted to protect their own interests? It was damn selfish of working people to vote that way. 'As a matter of fact this country was never meant to be a democracy anyway' they would say."

Sound familiar?

It got so Liebling could barely hold conversations with anybody.

"I did hate to drop in on a perfectly good reporter or physician and find myself howling and banging the table because he thought that there was no choice between Churchill and Hitler and demanded who were we to object to the slaughter of a couple of million Jews in Poland when there were resort hotels right here that wouldn't take Jewish guests?"

Ring a bell?

So fear-mongering and non-science, shrugging off America's cherished institutions and being utterly unable to make moral distinctions is nothing new. Cold comfort, perhaps.

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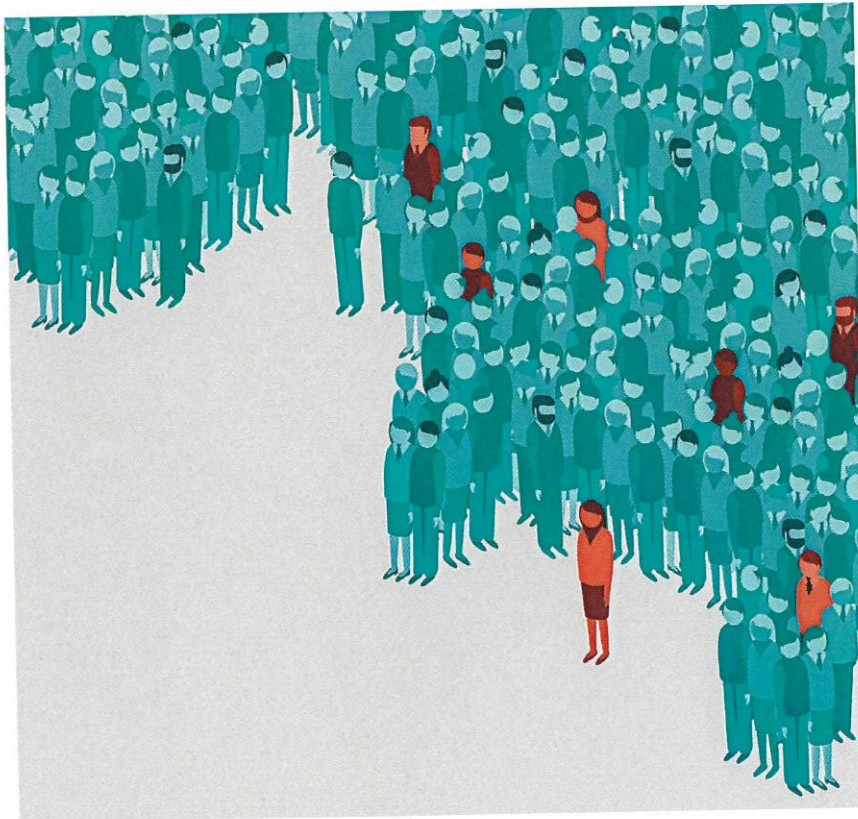
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Vox

America needs to decide how much Covid-19 risk it will tolerate

A realistic Covid-19 endgame requires accepting some risk. The question
is how much.

By German Lopez | @germanlopez | german.lopez@vox.com | Sep 7, 2021, 7:30am EDT



America still doesn't have a clear goal on handling the Covid-19 pandemic. | Getty Images

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FUTURE PERFECT

Finding the best ways to do good.

More than a year and a half into the Covid-19 pandemic, America still doesn't agree on what it's trying to accomplish.

Is the goal to completely eradicate Covid-19? Is it to prevent hospitals from getting overwhelmed? Is it hitting a certain vaccine threshold that mitigates the worst Covid-19 outcomes but doesn't prevent all infections? Or is it something else entirely?

At the root of this confusion is a big question the US, including policymakers, experts, and the general public, has never been able to answer: How many Covid-19 deaths are too many?

The lack of a clear end goal has hindered America's anti-pandemic efforts from the start. At first, the goal of restrictions was to **"flatten the curve"**: to keep the number of cases low enough that hospitals could treat those that did arise. But that consensus crumbled against the reality of the coronavirus — leaving the country with patchwork restrictions and no clear idea of what it meant to "beat" Covid-19, let alone a strategy to achieve a victory.

The vaccines were supposed to be a way out. But between **breakthrough infections**, the **risks of long Covid**, and **new variants**, it's becoming clear the vaccines didn't get rid of the need to answer the underlying question of what the Covid-19 endgame is.

RELATED

Should vaccinated people worry about long Covid?

America is now stuck between those two extremes: The country wants to reduce the risk of Covid-19, but it also wants to limit the remnants of social distancing and other Covid-related restrictions on day-to-day life.

"We're not trying to go for zero Covid," Ashish Jha, dean of the Brown University School of Public Health, told me. "The question becomes: When do, in most communities, people feel comfortable going about their daily business and not worrying, excessively, about doing things that are important and meaningful to them?"

Will Americans accept the deaths of tens of thousands of people, as they do with the flu, if it means life returning to normal? Can the public tolerate an even higher death toll — akin to the drug overdose crisis, which **killed an estimated 94,000 people in 2020** — if that's what it takes to truly end social distancing and other precautions?

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Vox's German Lopez is here to guide you through the Biden administration's burst of policymaking. **Sign up to receive our newsletter each Friday.**

Does it make a difference if the vast majority of deaths are among those who are willingly unvaccinated, who, in effect, accepted a greater risk from the coronavirus? Are further reductions in deaths worth postponing a return to "normal" — or changing what "normal" means — if continued precautions are mild, like prolonged masking or widespread testing?

There are no easy answers here. Even among the experts I've spoken to over the past few weeks, there's wide disagreement on how much risk is tolerable, when milder precautions like masking are warranted, and at what point harsher measures, like lockdowns and school closures, are needed. There's not even agreement on what the endgame is; some say that, from a policy standpoint, the goal should be to keep caseloads manageable for hospitals, while others call for doing much more to drive down Covid-19.

One big problem identified by experts: "I don't think we're having those conversations enough," Saskia Popescu, an infectious disease epidemiologist at George Mason University, told me. Instead of the public and officials openly discussing how much risk is acceptable, the public dialogue often feels like two extremes — the very risk-averse and those downplaying any risk of the coronavirus whatsoever — talking past each other.

But the path to an endgame should begin with a frank discussion about just how much risk is tolerable as the coronavirus goes from pandemic to endemic.

We're looking for a balancing act, not a total end to Covid-19

If there is one point of agreement among most experts, it's that Covid-19 is here to stay.

“Until very recently, I was hopeful that there was a possibility of getting to a point where we had no more Covid,” Eleanor Murray, an epidemiologist at Boston University, told me. Now she believes that “it is infeasible, in the short term, to aim for an eradication goal.”

Particularly with the rise of the delta variant, a consensus has formed that the coronavirus likely can't be eliminated. Like the flu, a rapidly shapeshifting coronavirus will continue to stick around in some version for years to come, with new variants leading to new spikes in infections. Especially as it becomes unlikely that 100 percent of the population will get vaccinated, and as it becomes clear that the vaccines **provide great but not perfect protection**, the virus is probably always going to be with us in some form, both in America and abroad.

That doesn't mean the US has to accept hundreds of thousands of deaths annually in the coming years. While the vaccines have struggled at least somewhat in preventing any kind of infection (including asymptomatic infection), they have **held up** in preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death — reducing the risk of each by roughly 90 percent, compared to no vaccine. Research has also found **stricter restrictions reduce Covid-19 spread and death**, and that **masks work**.

But it's also become clear most Americans aren't willing to tolerate drastic deviations from the pre-pandemic normal — lockdowns, staying at home, and broadly avoiding interactions with other people — for long. While social distancing staved off the virus in the pre-vaccine pandemic days, it also wrought economic, educational, and social devastation around the world. It's the intervention that, above all, most people want to avoid going forward.

“That's the goal, in my mind: to eliminate or reduce social distancing,” Jha said.

What policymakers can aim for is not a total end to Covid-19 but a balancing act. On one side of that scale is containing Covid-19 with restrictions and precautions. On the other is resuming normal, pre-pandemic life. Vaccines have changed the balance by giving us the ability to contain Covid-19's worst outcomes — hospitalization and death — with less weight on the side of restrictions. But vaccines alone can't drive hospitalizations and deaths to zero if all the weight on the restriction side is removed.

That suggests a choice: Either Americans accept some level of Covid-19 risk, including hospitalization and death, or they accept some level of restrictions and precautions in the long term.

Depending on how that choice is made, the US could be looking at very different futures. Americans could decide some milder precautions, like masking, are fine. Or they could conclude that even masking is too much to ask, even if that means a greater death toll. It hinges on how much weight on the restrictions side remains acceptable for the bulk of the population — how high the threshold is for embracing continued deviations from what day-to-day life was like before.

Regardless, experts say the balance, as the coronavirus becomes endemic, will require accepting some level of Covid-19 risk — both to individuals and to society. America already does that with the flu: In some years, a flu season **kills as many as 60,000 people in the US**, most of whom are elderly and/or people with preexisting health conditions, but also some kids and previously healthy individuals. As a cause of death, the flu can surpass **gun violence or car crashes**, but it's a tolerated cost to continuing life as normal.

"You want to get Covid to a place where it's more comparable in terms of disease burden and in terms of economic impact to the flu," Céline Gounder, an epidemiologist at New York University, told me.

With about half the country vaccinated, the Covid-19 death rate is still much higher than that of the flu — the **more than 120,000 deaths over the past six months** is still more than double the number of people even the worst flu seasons have recently killed. But as more people get vaccinated and others develop natural immunity after an infection, the death rate will likely come down.

A glimpse of what this could look like in the future came from a study in Provincetown, Massachusetts. The study was at first **widely reported** as evidence that the virus can still spread among the vaccinated because the outbreak happened in a highly vaccinated population, and three-fourths of those who were infected had gotten their shots.

But experts now argue for another interpretation of the study: It's what a post-pandemic world could look like. Yes, the coronavirus still circulated among vaccinated people. But in an outbreak that eventually infected more than 1,000, only seven hospitalizations and zero deaths have been recorded. If this was 2020, given overall hospitalization and death rates, the outbreak would have likely produced around 100 hospitalizations and 10 deaths.

*AMERICA IS NOW STUCK
BETWEEN TWO EXTREMES:
THE COUNTRY WANTS TO
REDUCE THE RISK OF COVID-19,
BUT IT ALSO WANTS TO
LIMIT THE REMNANTS OF
SOCIAL DISTANCING AND
OTHER COVID-RELATED
RESTRICTIONS ON DAY-TO-
DAY LIFE*

"We should cheer," Amesh Adalja, senior scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, told me. "The Provincetown outbreak, contrary to what the press reported, was evidence not of the vaccines' failure but of their smashing success."

That doesn't mean the vaccine is perfect. A 90 percent reduction in death, relative to the unvaccinated, is not 100 percent. But it is a much lower risk. If this holds up despite future variants and potentially waning vaccine efficacy, it's great news.

But that isn't how the Provincetown study has been widely interpreted, especially after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cited it to reinstitute masking recommendations for the vaccinated in public indoor spaces in **areas with substantial or high caseloads**.

And the national Covid-19 disease burden may never resemble Provincetown's anyway, since the city resides in the **second most vaccinated state**. In that context, Americans may have to come to accept even higher levels of sickness and death if the goal is to return to normal and vaccination rates don't go up quickly enough.

That leaves the country with a blunt question: How many deaths are Americans willing to tolerate?

We don't yet know how much Covid-19 risk we'll accept

The problem is there's no agreement, including among experts, on Covid-19 risk. Some have accepted merely reducing the coronavirus's strain on hospitals as the major policy goal. There's next to no confidence that anything like "Covid zero" can be achieved now, but other experts still prefer harsher restrictions if it means preventing more deaths. And many people fall in between.

It's this debate, between "flatten the curve" and "Covid zero," that's long divided the US's Covid-19 response. Red states hewed at least for a while to "flatten the curve," moving to lift Covid-related restrictions and reopen their economies as soon as hospitals stabilized. Blue states never truly pushed for "Covid zero," but they were generally much less willing to tolerate high levels of cases and deaths — and, as a result, shut down more quickly in response to even hints of major surges. (Although there were some outliers on both sides.)

Even with the vaccines, this division, among both policymakers and the public they serve, has kept America in limbo.

Part of the divide is on a philosophical question about the role of government. But it's about

individuals' decisions, too: Are they willing to forgo social activities, government mandate or not, to reduce deaths? Are they willing to keep wearing masks? Submit to continued testing in all sorts of settings?

Are 30,000 to 40,000 deaths a year too many? That's generally what the country sees with gun violence and car crashes — and American policymakers, at least, haven't been driven to major actions on these fronts.

Are as many as 60,000 deaths a year too many? That's what Americans have tolerated for the flu.

Are 90,000 deaths a year too many? That's the death toll of the ongoing drug overdose crisis — and while policymakers have taken some steps to combat that, experts argue the actions so far **have fallen short**, and the issue doesn't draw that much national attention.

Is the current death toll — of **more than 1,500 a day**, or equivalent to more than 500,000 deaths a year — too much? Many people would say, of course, it is. But in the middle of a delta variant surge, Americans may be revealing their preferences as restaurant reservations **are now around the pre-pandemic normal** — a sign the country is moving on. "The loudest voices on social media and in public are way more cautious than the average American," Jha said.

Part of the calculus may be influenced by who is getting infected and dying. Once everyone (including children) is eligible for the vaccines, is a high death toll among those who remain unvaccinated simply part of the risk they decided to take by not getting the shot?

This is not something most experts I spoke to are comfortable saying, but it's a sentiment I've repeatedly heard from vaccinated people and even some who are unvaccinated — a very dire version of "actions have consequences."

Another consideration is whether some Covid-related precautions become permanent. Social distancing in any of its forms doesn't seem like a candidate. But what about masking in indoor spaces? More frequent testing? Vastly improving indoor ventilation? Doing more things outdoors? Depending on whether Americans embrace these other interventions, the level of Covid-19 risk people have to tolerate may end up being lower — but what "normal" looks like would also be redefined to some degree.

Other countries are talking about these trade-offs more explicitly. Australian leaders, for

example, **have said** that they will shift from a long-heralded “Covid zero” strategy once vaccination rates hit certain thresholds — even though this means continued cases and deaths, particularly among the unvaccinated. In the US, the end goal has never been so clear.

Experts argue that these kinds of questions need to be out in the open, so Americans and their leaders can openly discuss them and decide on a plan forward.

Those conversations “were important to have in the beginning,” Murray said. “But they’re even more important now, as we move into this control phase rather than a phase where elimination or eradication [of Covid-19] seems possible.”

The country may just continue muddling along. Vaccination rates and natural immunity will slowly increase. Deaths and hospitalizations will similarly decline. Eventually, the virus will hit a level that most Americans find tolerable (if that hasn’t happened already). Politicians and the media will talk less about the coronavirus. And, perhaps before we know it, the pandemic will be a thing of the past in the US.

That’s what was happening in June — before the delta surge. But over the past 18 months, we’ve seen that, with no agreement on the endgame, it’s often impossible to say if the end is really near.

We have a request

In moments like this — as people grapple to understand variants and vaccines, and kids head back to school — many outlets take their paywalls down. Vox’s content is always free, in part because of financial support from our readers. We’ve been covering the Covid-19 pandemic for more than a year and a half. From the beginning, our goal was to bring clarity to chaos. To empower people with the information they needed to stay safe. And we’re not stopping.

In the next 30 days, we’re aiming to add 2,500 individual contributions to help keep our coverage of the Covid-19 crisis free for everyone who needs it. As each of us is only as healthy as our sickest neighbor, it’s essential that people can access clear information on the pandemic for free. **Will you help us reach our goal by making a contribution to Vox with as little as \$3?**



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The Importance Of Mourning Losses (Even When They Seem Small)

June 14, 2021 · 12:03 AM ET

KAVITHA CARDOZA



CLARE MARIE SCHNEIDER

14-Minute Listen

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Sarah Gonzales for NPR

When someone close to you dies — maybe a parent, a spouse or a sibling — it's a big loss. Those around you might acknowledge that loss by showing up with food, checking in or maybe sending a card. But what about when a neighbor dies? Or that long-awaited family reunion is cancelled? There's a chance others might not acknowledge or recognize it as a loss — and you may even feel guilty for even feeling this way.

Explore Life Kit

This story comes from Life Kit, NPR's family of podcasts to help make life better — covering everything from exercise to raising kids to making friends. For more, sign up for the newsletter and follow @NPRLifeKit on Twitter.

Bereavement expert Kenneth Doka calls this 'disenfranchised grief'. He coined the term in 1989 to capture this feeling of loss that no one seems to understand and that you don't feel entitled to. "Disenfranchised grief refers to a loss that's not openly acknowledged, socially mourned or publicly supported," he says.



LIFE KIT

Grief For Beginners: 5 Things To Know About Processing Loss

Doka says disenfranchised grief doesn't just occur when someone dies — it includes other losses that aren't acknowledged: a pet dying, losing a job or missing out on milestone events like prom or a 50th birthday celebration. "The pandemic of COVID-19 will be followed by a pandemic of complicated grief, because so many losses are disenfranchised," he says.

We spoke with Doka and therapist David Defoe about why it's important to acknowledge, understand, and honor those losses while also adapting to a changed life.

Listen to the full conversation on Life Kit at the top of this page or [here](#).



PARENTING: DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS

Be Honest And Concrete: Tips For Talking To Kids About Death

Know that these types of losses are valid, natural and normal

Some relationships, like an online friend, an ex-spouse or a godparent, aren't the same for everyone. In many Hispanic families, Doka says, godparents are very significant.

"We even called godparents 'compadres' and 'comadres,' which literally mean 'to father with' or 'to mother with.' But if a godparent dies, most of society will just shrug it off, 'Well, OK, sorry, but what's the big deal?'"

You may be mourning your daily commute because it was time to be alone with your thoughts and decompress, you might miss social outings and the joy they brought, or you may miss being able to volunteer and feel a sense of purpose. All of that can create disenfranchised grief. "Grief is a reaction to a loss, not just a reaction to a death," he says.

Don't dismiss how you feel: acknowledging the loss and what it means to you is the first step.



LIFE KIT

That Subject You've Been Avoiding? Anna Sale Says It's Time To Talk About It

Get to the root of the grief

You might mistake the grief you are feeling with depression and anxiety. Defoe says some of the symptoms are the same: numbness, trouble focusing, feelings of being overwhelmed. But he says your feelings of grief won't go away unless you address

them. "We say depression and anxiety are conditions of the mind, while grief is a condition of the heart. The grief that is associated with loss has to be dealt with on the emotional and the heart level. You can't think your way into better grief," says Defoe.

Even as more people are getting vaccinated and life is slowly returning to "normal," Defoe says, it's important to deal with these feelings, because they won't go away. "They stay with us. When we don't take the time to appropriately grieve our pain and our emotional stuff that we put aside, it comes out. We'll get angry, we'll get apathetic, we start realizing that there's some things that used to not bother us, but now we're easily triggered," he says.



LIFE KIT

How To Control (And Even Use) Your Anger — With Meditation

Talk to someone and tell them what you need

Talk to friends about how you are feeling. Let them know how they can support you in grief. You might find a therapist helpful. Finding community in support groups, whether in person or online, can also help you create connections and process the grief. There's power in being with people who have an understanding of what you're going through. "One of the least advantageous things that we can do is try to mourn by ourselves," says Defoe.



LIFE KIT

The Compounding Effects Of Racial Trauma, A Year After George Floyd's Murder

Find a ritual to honor the loss

For losses associated with disenfranchised grief, there are no established, societally-approved rituals. "There's no casket, there's no burial. There's nothing like that — you have to figure out how to navigate a new world without even a sense of conclusion,"

says Defoe.

Create your own conclusionary rituals. It could be journaling, creating a piece of art, planting flowers, running a race or getting a tattoo. Remember, all grief is processed at a very personal, individual level, so rituals will be specific to you and how you are feeling. "We don't get over losses," says Defoe. "We have to then figure out a way to move beyond them."

The audio portion of this episode was produced by Clare Marie Schneider.

We'd love to hear from you. Leave us a voicemail at 202-216-9823, or email us at LifeKit@npr.org. For more Life Kit, subscribe to our newsletter.

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